

App. No. 09/682,073

**Specifications:**

Please modify the Paragraph 0007 of page 1:

The Cambridge Dictionary of American English defines a "device" to be an object or machine invented to fulfill a particular purpose. According to the present invention, the term "device" is not limited to physical ~~apparatus~~apparatus, but is considerably expanded to comprise abstract or virtual devices, such as system operators, that ~~partake~~take part in network communications. One fundamental characteristic of devices is that they comprise a finite set of states associated with their operation.